

DEMETER

Women's News of the Monterey Bay Area

VOLUME 3 NO. 1

APRIL, 1980

Sponsored by Mural Project and Demeter Productions

Women's Variety Talent Show Returns

On Saturday, April 12 at 8 p.m., Demeter Productions and the Community Mural Project will present Monterey's second "Semi-Annual Women's Variety Talent Show." The show will be held at Robert Down School Auditorium, 485 Pine Avenue, Pacific Grove.

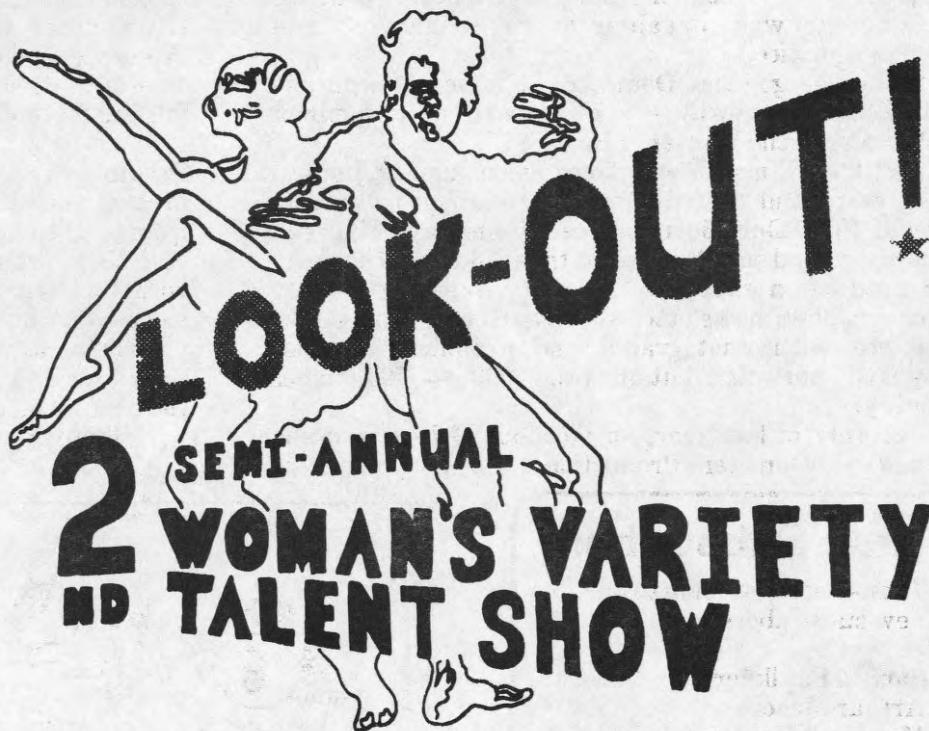
Born out of a desire both to provide high quality entertainment and to showcase the wealth of talented local performers, the first Women's Variety Talent Show was such a success that it instantly became a tradition.

And there is no stopping it now. This year's show promises to be just as wonderful, breathtaking and outrageous as the last, with talent ranging from dance to juggling, from opera to rock and roll.

Among the performers are: Janet Butler, Teresa Jones, Suzanne Nivette, CJ McArthur, Lisa Burroughs and Lambert VanBuuren — dance; Marcia Galvin — poetry; Marjorie Van Peski, Laurie Meagher, Zora Martin, Di Moni — guitar and vocals; Gertrude Snyder — opera, with Pauline Thomas on piano.

In addition, Romie Wikdahl will perform a scene from *American Dame*; Pauline Thomas, Kathy Nathan and Mary Brooks will perform Fats Waller tunes; Andrea Gurtin will provide mime entertainment; and Iris Dean, Raindance, Angie Antang and Orange Cleghorn will perform an enlightening blend of video extravaganza and rock and roll.

The concert is a benefit performance for *Demeter* and the Community Mural Project, which seeks to transform the huge blank wall of the Caribbean Motor Hotel into a beautiful mural depicting the landscape and horizon of the Lovers



Point area when it was still in a natural state.

There will be an open meeting Monday, April 7 at 8 p.m. at 214 Lobos Street, Pacific Grove, for anyone interested in helping on the show.

Tickets are \$3 in advance, \$4 at the door and \$2 for children and seniors and are available at Do Re Mi Records in the Barnyard, Carmel; Bookworks in Pacific Grove; *Demeter's* office, 591 Lighthouse, No. 7 and the Mural Squad headquarters in the PG Art Center, Pacific Grove.

TranSisters will provide sound for the concert and free child care is available by reservation. For more information on tickets or child care, please call 372-4466, 373-6987 or 659-2752.

A Celebration Of Women's Art

The second annual Celebration of Women's Art, an auction of works by local women artists, will be held Friday, April 25, at Corral de Tierra, off Highway 68. The National Women's Political Caucus is sponsoring the auction in support of the artists and to raise funds for endorsement of political candidates who are supportive of women's issues. Social hour is from 7-8 p.m., with local politicians pouring the wine. The auction will begin at 8 p.m. For information and tickets, phone 373-5193

An Editorial

Happy Anniversary Demeter!

Demeter is celebrating its second anniversary on April 1, 1980.

In the winter of 1978 the Women's Resource Center held a garage sale where, between sales, Lois Van Beers convinced me that a feminist newspaper was needed on the Peninsula, and that we could do it. We talked for months until finally, on April 1, 1978, we published the *Women's Resource Center Newsletter*.

Realizing that our title needed improvement, we searched for an appropriate title and found *Demeter*.

Demeter is the goddess of the fruitful soil. According to Greek mythology, *Demeter* controls seasonal growth, presides over the harvest and dispenses justice.

Like the goddess *Demeter*, we hope to encourage and facilitate growth — the growth of a feminist community in the Monterey Bay area.

With each month we gained more support, both in subscribers and contributors. Our staff grew and, in June of 1979, Debi Busman, Joan Weiner and Maureen McEvoy joined us. Because of their added enthusiasm and production expertise, *Demeter* expanded from a mimeographed newsletter to a typeset newsmagazine complete with photographs and graphics. We also increased our distribution from 200 to 500 copies monthly.

In July of last year, an off-shoot of *Demeter* was formed — *Demeter Productions*. Its purpose is to

promote women's culture, primarily by bringing women's music to the Peninsula. In its short existence it has produced Trish Nugent, River, the Women's Variety Talent Show and, last month, Holly Near & Friends in concert.

On February 13, 1980, thanks to the efforts of Mickey Welsh and Katherine Stoner, we became incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the title *Demeter Resources*. We are currently applying for a tax-exempt status with the IRS.

Demeter has even plunged into the sports arena, sponsoring an undefeated basketball team in the B Division of the Monterey Parks and Recreation Women's Basketball League. We are hoping to sponsor a spring softball team and possibly summer soccer and fall flag football teams.

We now have an office at 591 Lighthouse No. 7 in Pacific Grove. A phone will be installed soon, but at present the office is staffed Monday through Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.

We've come a long way over the last two years with the help of the community. There's a lot more work to be done and more challenges ahead. We hope you will continue to contribute ideas, articles, letters to the editor and your own special skills to make *Demeter* the best it can be.

Happy Birthday *Demeter*!

—JT Mason

New Subscribers

Thanks and welcome to our new subscribers.

Sandra Faulkner
Arthur Mason
Mary Bell Hughes
Susan Gryte
Frances A. Vashaw
Jacqueline Collins
Mary Cea
Kelsey Ramage
Marjorie Fontana
Women's Crisis Line of Salinas
N.J. Mallory
Connie Streett
Peggy
Joan Dowlin
Anne Goldfried
Doris Florer
Joan Johnson
Dr. Alan Smith
Pattie Tozier
Louis Heinrich
Ellen Fondiler
Marjorie Van Peski
Carol Feeney
Mary Lai
Linda Dunne



Editors:
Production:
Graphics:
Reporters:

JT Mason
Joan Weiner
Barbara Bastian
Janie Forrest
Polly Parker
Sandra McKee

Debi Busman
Maureen McEvoy
Cyndi Sumner
Diana Skiles
Carol Hellander

Demeter is a feminist publication designed to keep women informed of pertinent issues. Contributions of articles, graphics and money are welcome. Subscriptions are \$3.00 for six months or \$6.00 for one year. Mail check or money order to *Demeter*, 591 Lighthouse, No. 7, Pacific Grove CA 93950.

Letters to the Editor

Bravo! Holly Near Concert A Success

Editor:

I attended the March 2 Holly Near concert in Pacific Grove and I would like to thank the women of Demeter Productions for organizing an evening of first rate entertainment featuring women performers of exceptional talent.

The positive participation of the audience, women and men alike, created a spirit of unity and harmony and I look forward to many more such concerts.

Susan Buser
Pacific Grove

Editor:

Please sign me up for a one year subscription. I've picked up "freebies" at the Cafe Balthazar much too long.

P.S. Congratulations on the Holly Near concert. Loved it!

Joan Johnson
Pacific Grove

Editor:

I enjoyed immensely your Holly Near concert on the 2nd. Hope to attend future events!

Joan E. Dowlin
Carmel Valley

Editor:

Holly Near Concert was fantastic! It was my first women's concert, but it won't be my last. Thanks!

Mary Langeford
Salinas

Editor:

We at SUNNY (Society Uniting For Non-Nuclear Years) would like to congratulate Demeter Productions on an extremely successful concert (judging by the size of the crowd!) and thank you for providing the community with a first rate opportunity to hear some high quality women's music.

The superb musicianship of Robin Flower, Laurie Lewis, Nancy Vogl and Adrienne Torf and the impressive and inspiring performance by Holly Near combined to provide a real treat for the entertainment-starved Peninsula.

We would also like to thank you for inviting SUNNY to set up an information table and for announcing the Three-Mile-Island memorial to the audience. We were able to plug into a much larger segment of the community as a result (to say nothing of the effect Holly Near has on inspiring people to plug themselves into important movements).

We look forward to more of the same in the future. Again, thanks for an entertaining and educational evening.

SUNNY

Editor:

... Thank you for putting on the Holly Near & Friends Concert! Excellent!

Pattie Tozien
Aptos

A Missed Opportunity

Editor:

Last month Hartnell College offered a course on "Minority Women in 1980 — Dialogue with Black, Chicana and Asian Women." It was a series of three panel discussions highlighting the goals and aspirations of minority women.

I attended one of the three sessions and was surprised to be the only white person there. In speaking with Cindy Obenchain, the organizer of the program, I discovered that virtually no white women had attended any of the three sessions. I was disappointed. Collectively, we as white women missed an opportunity to listen and learn — by invitation — about the experiences and needs of Third World women. Why weren't more white women there?

I work with predominately white women's groups who share a stated desire and goal to unite with women of color and see this task clearly as central in eliminating sexism as well as racism. I believe white women truly want these changes but we seem to get lost in the overall problem and our own white isolation. Often we don't know where to begin.

Outreach needs to begin within our own groups. Our task is to get the word out among white women about when, where, and how we can support Third World women's activities and struggles.

Women of color will believe we support them when they see us do it; when we are visible at events and programs sponsored by them to which the public is invited. It is white women's responsibility to seek out this information and talk it up among ourselves. We cannot blame ineffective publicity; we have to actively seek out the information and it must be a priority for us.

This unity work is to help us, not to "help" people of color. It will enrich our lives. Obviously the need exists to establish this kind of information network. If you are interested in these tasks contact me at 649-6065.

Gwen Marie Scott
Pacific Grove



Demeter T-Shirts

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tank Top | <input type="checkbox"/> French Cut | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium | <input type="checkbox"/> Large |

Tan ☐
(with brown design)

Black ☐
(with white design)

informing women
DEMETER
Women's News of the Monterey Bay Area
is what it's all about

Demeter T-Shirts are now available with the Demeter goddess design on the front and our logo on the back. (The logo is unavailable on tank tops and optional on other shirts.) To order shirts by mail, please check appropriate boxes and send name, address, and check or money order for \$5 (plus 50 cents postage) to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey, CA 93940.

Local and National News Briefs

Secretaries Taking More Than Dictation

A new study indicates that for women clerical workers with children the risk of heart disease is twice that of other working women and housewives. The study, by researchers from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, involved 737 women from Framingham, Mass. aged 45 to 64 years, who were followed for eight years.

Speculating as to the results of the study, researchers suggested that secretaries and other clerical workers had the most repressed anger, the most unsupportive bosses, and almost no control over their jobs.

The highest heart disease rate occurred among women clerical workers who had children. Clerical working mothers with husbands who had blue collar jobs were in the highest risk of all, suggesting an economic factor was at work.

The study appears in the February issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

—Sojourner

Dolly Parton Look-Alike Contest Called Off

A Dolly Parton buxom-beauty look-alike contest was called off because women's groups claimed the event exploited women. The contest had been scheduled for the Connecticut Truck Show on March 18-20 in Hartford, Conn.

—San Jose Mercury



Working Woman's Guide To Job Rights Published

A Labor Department booklet called *A Working Woman's Guide to Her Job Rights* gives facts on all federal laws affecting women as paid workers in nongovernment jobs, from hiring through retirement, with sample complaint forms. Send \$1.60 to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Booklet order number is 029-016-00056-9.

—Ms.



New Bill Sponsored For Renewable Trial Marriages

A bill has been introduced in the Alaska legislature that would permit renewable trial marriages. If passed it would be the first of its kind and would allow couples to agree in advance to get married for a "specific period" agreed on in advance. The contract would expire on the expected date unless renewed.

Rep. Mike Beirne, the bill's sponsor, explained that "If married people don't want to renew their vows, then they shouldn't be married." The trial marriage agreement would also spell out assets disposition and child custody arrangements in the event of non-renewal of the contract.

—National NOW Times

Planned Parenthood Offers Classes On Fertility Awareness

Planned Parenthood of Monterey County has announced a series of classes on fertility awareness dealing with the Sympto-Thermal method of natural family planning. Class time will be determined by public response. Women will learn to determine their fertile days by noting physical changes that occur during their cycle. This method can be used to prevent or promote pregnancy.

For more information, call 373-1691. Planned Parenthood is located at 229 17th Street, Pacific Grove.

London Times Bans Ms.

The *Times of London*, considered the voice of the establishment by many government, legislative and business officials throughout the world, has banned the use of the title Ms. in its latest stylebook.

The British newspaper announced recently that it was banishing the term Ms. because it was "artificial, ugly, silly . . . a faddish middle-class plaything."

The *Times* explained that the words Miss or Mrs. would continue to be used to denote a woman's marital status, because the newspaper "seeks to tell its readers who these people are."

Feminist leaders in the United States reacted swiftly, saying that the *Times* editors — all male — would think differently about it if they had to be identified by their marital status.

—Plexus

Fathers Can Cause Birth Defects, Too

Fathers can cause birth defects, too. Drug exposure of the male before conception — particularly to methadone, Darvon, caffeine, thalidomide, alcohol, anesthetic gases, and nicotine — can result in reduced birth weight, reduced learning ability, and increased infant mortality.

—Ms.

Community News and Events

Cris Williamson in Concert

WomensWorks presents Cris Williamson in concert on April 2 at 8 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. It will be the first time in four years Cris has performed in this area. She is on tour to promote her latest album, *Strange Paradise*. Tickets are on a sliding scale and are available at Do Re Mi Records in the Barnyard in Carmel, and at the door. Sandra Faulkner will provide sign language interpretation.

Rape Crisis Center

The Rape Crisis Center and the Monterey Police Department are co-sponsoring a film night at MPC Lecture Forum 103 Wednesday, April 2 from 7-9 p.m. The films being shown are *Rape*, *A New Perspective*, *Rape: A Question of Consent*, *Rape: A Preventive Inquiry*, and the Acquaintance Rape Films, a series of four short films. Admission is free. Donations welcomed.

Mural Project

The Community Mural Project will hold a free public workshop on Program and Proposal Development, April 1, 7:30 p.m. in Room 28 of the Pacific Grove Middle School, 835 Forest. Everyone is invited. Call 372-4466 for more information.

Women In Search of Self

Instructor June Schwartz, M.A., will lead a small discussion group which will deal with concerns of the participants, focusing on transition.

Class will meet on Tuesdays from 7-10 p.m., April 22, 29, May 6 and 13, and Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, call June Schwartz at 624-2457.

Salinas Now

Meets Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Monterey Savings & Loan, Main and Alisal, Salinas.

"Getting to Know You" will be the theme of this meeting. Everyone is invited to get to know each other, to share ideas and discover what organizations are doing in the community. For more information, call 663-2804.

Health Fair

Eskaton Monterey Hospital will hold a Health Fair on Saturday, April 12, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The Rape Crisis Center will sponsor a booth providing informational handouts, and the American Cancer Society booth will have information on breast self-exams for women. The fair will be in the parking lot at the rear of the hospital, 576 Har-nell, Monterey, and is free.

Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women

The Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, April 2, at the Salinas Courthouse at 7:30 p.m.



Demeter Office Hours

Demeter's office is now open at 591 Lighthouse, No. 7. Please feel free to stop by with ideas, suggestions, offers of help, to have a cup of coffee, or simply meet the anonymous women of the staff box in person. Our hours are 12-3 Monday through Saturday.

WADV

Women Against Domestic Violence general meeting will be held Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 276 Eldorado in Monterey.

WADV is a dynamic organization committed to providing alternatives and support for battered women. It now has 39 members and two full-time paid staff. Nine new advocates have been working the crisis line since the last training session.

Antioch Workshops for Women

Antioch University, 690 Pine Street in Pacific Grove, continues its series of workshops for women. In April, Friday night workshops include: April 11, an informal discussion about lesbianism, with Jacqueline Somma; and April 25, "What is Feminist Therapy?" with Barbara Licht-Greenberg. The workshop on April 18 is for men only, "The Myth of Being Male," facilitated by Scott Hunter and Paul Bellina.

Workshops will also be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27. Saturday's workshop will be "Women and Anger and Depression," with Lorna Pilnick. On Sunday, Cuca Hepburn will lead a workshop on assertiveness training.

For more information, call Antioch at 649-4949.

Metropolitan Community Church

Offers Sunday worship services at 6:30 p.m., Grand and Central Aves., Pacific Grove. Rev. B.J. McDaniels (woman pastor).

YWCA

Women's Center — General meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at the YWCA, 5:15 p.m. Meetings are open to anyone interested in the development of the Women's Center. Scheduled meeting is April 16.

Swimming — Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. at Monterey High School. An adult physical fitness program. Fee: \$10

Passover — Community Sedar, April 2, 5:15 p.m. at Ord Terrace Elementary School, 1755 La Salle, Ave., Seaside. Bring a dish to share and tableware. Fee \$2.

Women's health task force — A fact finding group to explore the health resources and needs of women. Next meeting April 8.

Call the YWCA, 649-0834, for registration and/or further information on any of the above. Membership fee: \$7.50 per year.

Women for Women

WFW meets Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joy Brennan, 26 Villa St., Salinas. Everyone is invited.

'Close The Door, I Feel a Draft'

Women in the Trenches

"The prospect of being drafted is far from comfortable. But men have handled that. Women can handle it. We can fight, or we can refuse to, and discover either way that we are strong."

That was the conclusion of a sermon entitled "Women in the Trenches" delivered by Reverend Margaret Keip at the Unitarian Church of the Monterey Peninsula last month.

"What is regrettable is not the prospect of drafting women but the prospect of drafting anyone — the exertion of power over people. But when it is necessary, if it is ever necessary, it is only defensible if it is equally applied. And that means drafting women."

It also means involving women in combat, she said. Describing herself as a feminist, Keip said that while she doesn't believe that men are deliberately keeping women down, they may discourage women from experiences of power because of fear: "Fear that if she gains power you lose it . . . which isn't true. Power is not in limited supply. We each tap it from the springs of being within ourselves, and each of us has all we need."

Power derives from the Latin word posse: to be able. "To discover one's own power is to discover oneself to be able. It is a risk and a challenge and takes courage." Power can be frightening, especially when we think of it as against, or over, someone (maybe us) instead of for, or with, us. The former is entrapment, the latter empowerment which sets the word "power" in a matrix of becoming.

Noting that overt power has been a male principle in Western civilization for most of recorded history and that women are now experiencing it as a whole new dimension of being, she hypothesized that women in power will behave much the way men have, at least at first. Earlier, under the influence of theories about the interplay of biology and temperament, she had been convinced that women would naturally be more peaceful and democratic in positions of authority.

"I believe people are more unique

as individuals than as male and female, and that life experience is far more relevant than gender," she said, adding that we don't know what being male or female predestines for the human personality. "We may never know; nor do we need to know. It is not necessary that we justify our preferences or know the parameters of ourselves before we set out to explore what we are and what we can do and what we may become."

"On Their Own"

Women Owned Businesses

On Their Own, Women Entrepreneurs by Resources for Women, Inc., Santa Cruz, 1979.

Resources for Women, Inc. is a non-profit corporation which provides women with opportunities to realize their goals. One of their projects was publication of the *Women's Yellow Pages* for Santa Cruz County. Their current project is publication of a series of handbooks designed to aid women in establishing their own businesses. *On Their Own* is the first in this series.

The book contains practical suggestions on how to succeed in business by women who have done just that. Twenty-nine women entrepreneurs were interviewed. Most admitted to initial doubts and fears, but what emerges is the con-

"We each tame our own power but we must first recognize its (our) strength. This is as true for men as women but it is new for women, and necessary, and important, and potentially beautiful, and definitely scary." Courage is required both by the person venturing power and those who stick around to encourage and support, since "power is indeed discovered and realized and tested in encounter."

Here then, proclaimed Rev. Keip, "let us celebrate the courage, for the time is overdue for women in the trenches." All kinds of trenches.

—Polly Parker

viction that we can be our own bosses and make our own choices. There is convincing evidence that a certain satisfaction comes to those who take the risk. Hard work, long hours and financial risks were necessary, but, at least for these women, freedom and independence resulted.

Several themes recurred in the interviews. Most of the women stressed the need for solid financial advice and sufficient capital before opening for business. Several alternatives for funding were explained.

Any woman who has ever contemplated owning her own business will find inspiration from *On Their Own*. Copies can be obtained for \$3 from Resources for Women, Inc. 104 Walnut Ave., Suite 212, Santa Cruz, CA 93060.

—Joan Weiner

Women's Programs on KAZU

Women's music is alive and well on the Peninsula. KAZU (90.3 FM) in Pacific Grove has two shows weekly featuring women's music.

On Sundays from 1-4 p.m., Laurie Meagher hosts "Women's Music for Everybody," a show highlighting the variety of women in song.

On Thursdays from 12:30-3 p.m. JT Mason hosts "My Sister's House," a program of women's issues and music. Some of the upcoming shows on "My Sister's House" are:

April 3 — an interview with

Claire Parrish and Amadea Morningstar discussing their April 19-20 workshop, "Healing Ourselves . . . Bodywork for Women."

April 10 — an interview with Kate Elvin talking about the second Women's Variety Talent Show happening on April 12.

April 17 — an interview with Polly Parker about her plans for starting a community bookstore.

April 24 — an update on the varied activities happening at the YWCA and the Women's Center with Linda Robinson.

DEMENTED

April Fools of the Monterey Bay Area

University Proves Link Between Vegetarianism and Homosexuality

A conclusive link between vegetarianism and homosexuality has been established by a research team at a midwestern university. In a pioneering study of the correlation between sexual preferences and food tastes, statistical evidence indicated that over 50 percent of respondents who abstained from eating meat also admitted having considered involvement with someone of the same sex.

"The pattern is clear. We've always known the nuts and berries and fruitcakes were all mixed up together and this study proves it," stated Dr. M.U. Parameter, director of the research institute which has been funded by a grant from the American Cattle Association.

Equally significant, he noted, is

the correlation on attitudinal scales wherein respondents also scored lower on tests of patriotism as measured by willingness to use nuclear weapons in Third World countries.

"This is the breakthrough we have been waiting for," exulted a top-ranking security officer who asked not to be identified. "We can round up the tofu freaks, bar the sunflower seed addicts from federal employment, keep the food faddists out of the classrooms, and get back to traditional American values in diet, sex, and war."

Screening procedures will be greatly simplified as a result of the study in that suspected deviants will be offered a hamburger during personnel interviews; if they refuse they will be turned down for jobs and placed on a computerized security risk list.

Anita Bryant To Appear in Concert

In a continuing effort to provide the Monterey Peninsula with top-name female entertainment, Demented Profusions is proud to present the forthcoming appearance of Anita Bryant. The concert is scheduled for an April Fool's dinner theatre, to be held at the Marina Solid Waste Treatment Plant.

Ms. Bryant will be singing her latest releases, as well as some of her old favorites, including *Ding-Ding-Ding Went the Trollup*, and *I'm in the Nude for Love*. Plus, as a special encore performance, Ms. Bryant has promised to squeeze a fruit!

Tickets are currently on sale at Book-Warts in Pacific Grove, and Sting-Ray-Mi Music in the Barnyard. They won't last long so be sure and hurry. Remember folks, she's not just for breakfast anymore!

Redwood Records Takes Over Musak Franchise

After months of negotiating, Redwood Records has bought the Musak franchise. Now, instead of hearing previously popular songs boringly done by understandably obscure groups, each time you enter an elevator or see your doctor you will be greeted by songs of Holly Near and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

There has been one drawback to this deal, however. Since the installment of the revised Musak systems, office building custodians nationwide have complained that lines for elevators have increased tenfold. It seems that when the music starts no one will leave the elevator, proving once again that even the women's music business has its ups and downs.

New Motorcycle Gang Forming--Demented Takes to the Streets

Flushed from the triumph of an undefeated basketball season, the women of Demented will extend their image of power into the macho realm of motorcycle gangdom.

"Of course, it will take a while to get the hardware in place," said Debi "Call Me Chains" Busman, "but we anticipate the same kind of success as in our other recent achievements."

Will the project involve acts of senseless violence and destruction? "No, creating a mood of sheer terror is more our style," explained Barbara "These Boots Weren't Made For Walking" Bastian. "We're really not into stomping people, just

pavement."

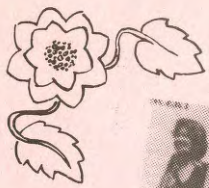
Asked if the idea weren't a rather drastic switch from Demented's usual activities, the organization's co-founder, J.T. "Hell's Belles" Mason, commented, "Frankly I think the craving for a para-military elite exists within all women and this will simply provide a good feminist outlet. Besides the uniforms will be very becoming."

To elicit community support and participation Demented will sponsor a Name Our Gang and Design its Costume contest which will culminate in a fashion show for prize winning entries at the Pebble Beach Lodge early next month.

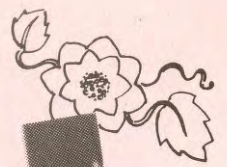
april

		1 Cris Williamson in concert, 8 p.m. Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Community Seder, Ord Terrace Elementary School, Seaside 5:15 p.m. Film Night co-sponsored by Rape Crisis Center, MPC 7-9 p.m.	2 My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3 — an interview with Claire Parrish and Amadea Morningstar	4 Women's Rap Group, 7:30. Call Signe, 624-2133 Women's Coffeehouse, Santa Cruz UWCA, 303 Walnut 8 p.m.	5 Mrs. Olson switches to Yuban	
6 Women's music, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12-3 Write an article for Demeter	7 Talent Show open meeting, 214 Lobos, PG 8 p.m. We need calendar news. Send information to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey.	8 Women's Health Task Force meeting. Call 649-0834 for location. Salinas Valley NOW meeting, Monterey Savings & Loan 7:30 p.m.	9 WADV general meeting, YWCA 6:30 p.m. Support your local feminist	10 Laurie Meagher sings at Cafe Balthazar, 7 p.m. My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3 — an interview with Kate Elvin talking about the second Women's Variety Talent Show.	11 Antioch University workshop on lesbianism. 690 Pine PG 7:30 p.m. 649-4949. Women's Rap Group, 7:30 p.m. Call Signe, 624-2133.	12 Women's Variety Talent Show, Robert Down School, PG 8 p.m. Health Fair, Eskaton Hospital, Monterey.
13 Women's music, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12-3	14 Call your mother	15 Demeter deadline for copy	16 Women's Center general meeting, YWCA 5:15 p.m.	17 NWPC meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call for location Women for Women meeting, 26 Villa St., Salinas 7:30 p.m. My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3	18 Women's Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., Santa Cruz YWCA, 303 Walnut. Women's Rap Group, 7:30 p.m. Call Signe, 624-2133. Take a Socialist Feminist Scorpio to Lunch Day	19 Workshop on massage, nutrition and herbs for women. Through Saturday. Call 375-6484 or 625-0757.
20 Women's music, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12-3 Take a Straight Separatist to Dinner	21 Take a Radical Lesbian to Breakfast	22 Women In Search of Self class begins, MPC. Call 624-2457.	23 Take yourself to lunch	24 My Sister's House, KAZU 90.3 FM, 12:30-3 — an update on the varied activities happening at the YWCA and the Women's Center with Linda Robinson.	25 Celebration of Women's Art, sponsored by NWPC, Corral de Tierra, 7 p.m. Antioch University workshop on feminist therapy. 690 Pine St., PG 7:30 p.m. 649-4949.	26 Antioch workshop on women, anger and depression, 690 Pine, PG. 649-4949.
27 Diana Paul booksigning party at The Mandala, 176 Forest Ave. PG Look forward to next issue of Demeter Antioch workshop on assertiveness training, 690 Pine PG	28 As far as we know, NOTHING IS HAPPENING TODAY! Is that possible? Let us know. Send information to Demeter, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey.	29 Mural Project workshop on art and the law, Rm. 28, PG Middle School, 7:30 p.m. Call your mother back	30 Take a Lesbian Feminist to Lunch Day			

bb bashia



FOCUS ON FASHION



JT 'Hell's Belles' Mason is co-editor of *Demented*. Her outside activities include motorcycle racing, rumbling, and, for extra money, she puts on chains at Donner's Pass.

The April Fools of Demeter



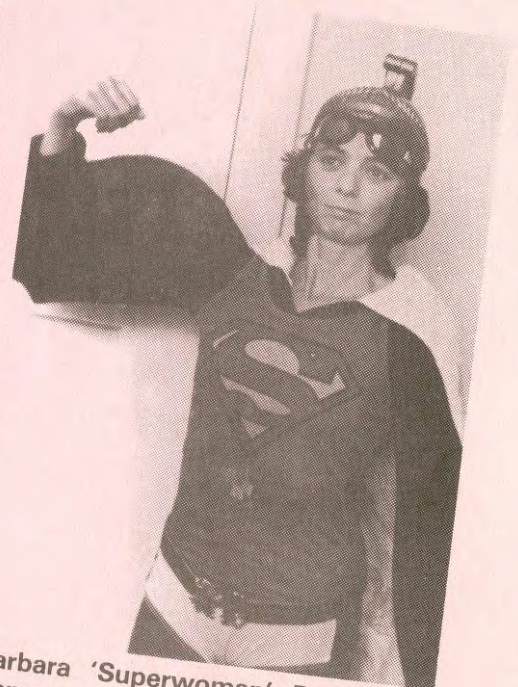
Debi Busman, also known as Debutante Deb, is co-editor of *Demented* and head of graphics. Her outside hobbies include Beautician School and campaigning for Anita Bryant.



Janie 'Collette' Forrest is a reporter with a monthly column called 'All Things Considered.' When she is not fighting bulls in Tijuana, Janie plays the lead role in 'Carmen.'



'Mashing' Maureen McEvoy works on the layout of *Demented*. She has been studying Karate, saying that it is the liquor of life that incorporates all her different sides. "Where else can you get progressively belted and lay out at the same time?"



Barbara 'Superwoman' Bastian is *Demented*'s graphic artist. While not being overly graphic, she saves innocent citizens of Pagrovia from temptations and evil.

Sandra 'Sock'em' McKee is a staff reporter specializing in interviews and reviews. Her other duty is to lead co-Demeteorites in our song, 'Nothing could be neater than to work on the Demeter in the morning. Nothing could be sweeter than distributing Demeter in the morning.'



Polly 'The Pouncer' Parker is the latest addition to the Demented staff. Outside of being a top reporter, she models for the Audubon Society.

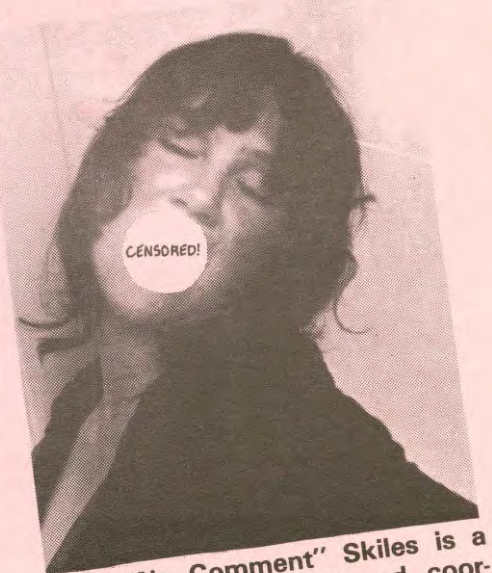
Photos by Carol Hellander and Penny Van Gundy



Cyndi Sumner, better known as 'Scioup,' is a reporter and graphic artist for Demented. Rarely seen without her lucky penny, Cyndi has been known to hang out at a corner for weeks waiting for a story to break.



THE ENTIRE DEMENTED STAFF from left to right, top row: Barbara Bastian, Diana Skiles, Maureen McEvoy, Debi Busman, Joan Weiner, Janie Forrest, and Carol Hellander. Kneeling are Sandra McKee, JT Mason, Polly Parker, and Cyndi Sumner. Are you sure you still want to subscribe to this?



Diana "No Comment" Skiles is a reporter for Demented and coordinates the community events section of the paper.

LOVE SONG TO SIGMUND FREUD

*Dear Dr. Freud, I must thank you
For helping me see the light
You showed me my tendencies — neurotic dependencies
So I could un-frustrate my life.*

*Thank you for explaining life's stages,
Like oral and anal and the rest
And your great diagnosis of female psychosis
To explain our inferior sex.*

*I used to enjoy all my orgasms
But things aren't the same as before
It's not such a treat now — I'm crushed in defeat now
Cause you've said mine were just immature.*

*And while on the subject of labels
I must say I'm slightly perplexed
My son's love and devotion seemed honest emotion
But you're calling him Oedipus Rex.*

*I hardly know how to repay you
But here's an idea that endures
Take your penis-envy stage, then combine the anal stage
And you've got something to shove right up yours!*

Janie Forrest

Schlafly Comes Out for ERA

In a surprise move yesterday, Phyllis Schlafly told reporters that in actuality she has been working for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment all along. "Of course I'm for it," she said. "How could any reasonable person be against it?"

When asked why she had been charading all these years as an opponent of the ERA, Schlafly commented, "Well, think of it as strategy. If I acted stupid enough and shot my mouth off to the right

people, think of the thousands I would alienate. And many of those people might have stayed middle of the road without my influence. You see, it was a brilliant plan. When I started shouting all those absurdities about uni-sex toilets and such, well the pro-ERA movement really gained momentum."

When asked why she was confessing at this time, she stated, "I've played the fool long enough for the cause. As a feminist I believe in being direct, honest and spontaneous and I think it's time to start practicing it."

Anita Bryant has called a press conference for tomorrow. One can only wonder what news she'll be coming out with.

Demented Staff Elected to Office

In recent county elections two of Demented's staff members were voted into top public positions.

Polly "The Pouncer" Parker has been elected on the Flaw and Order ticket for Sheriff of Monterey County. Her winning slogan was, "I'd rather clean up the streets than clean up my house."

Joan "Hot Dog" Weiner was elected to the County Board of Supervisors for her anti-vegetarian stand. Yesterday, on *Meat the Press*, Ms. Weiner explained her landslide victory by saying, "Weiners are winners! (Besides, you know what they say about vegetarians.)"

A One Shot Deal

One Fool's Retrospective

My tendencies towards women's lib first began when I was attending Condo College. I was in my second trimester of maid service when it hit me that there were only girls in my classes while all the hotel management courses were filled with men. I tried talking to the Dean, Dr. Joe Van Ism, about the discrepancies but he dismissed them saying, "Women for centuries have been in servile positions. Why, look at Maid Marion!"

Other girls began to join me in protest. We started a group called Maids on the Move (M.O.M.). We held rallies, marched on the student union, and wrote letters to the Bored of Directors. Our rallying cry was, "We're not going to take anymore of your sheets!"

Eventually I was expelled. I transferred to the Radner-Reddy School of Dance where I became a Tutu woman. I even started smoking Virginia Slims. Yes, I have come a long way. Each morning I awake dancing to our school song, shouting out the words as I twirl — "Yes I can, I'm okay you're okay. I'm my own best friend, my mother myself. I have no fear of flying. I am woman hear me roar."

The women's lib movement has really changed my life. Critics will tell you that it hurts the family structure, that men will no longer find you attractive. But since women's lib, my love life has doubled. I get twice as many dates as I used to. Men still call, and now women do too.

—Junkfood Trollup Mahalo

Women Poop Out



The claim that American women are downtrodden and unfairly treated is the fraud of the century.

Phyllis Schlafly

International Women's Day Celebration

The morning of Saturday, March 8, International Women's Day, dawned bright and sunny and full of energy. We threw some clothes and a stack of *Demeter's* into the car and headed up to Cabrillo College for the Celebration of Women Fair.

We got to the college about 10 a.m. and ambled about the crafts fair. Women had booths set up, selling crafts, from rubber stamps to batiked clothing, face paintings to helium balloons, some of which colored the sky. A line of women, hands clasped, snake-danced through the area, singing. The festivities had begun!

On both Saturday and Sunday, life was a madhouse of activity. There were workshops, films and slide shows to view, discussions

ranging from health and intuitive mechanics, to self defense for women.

In the Fireside Lounge, entertainment was continuous. Women presented dance, theatre and music from bagpipes to the Mother Pluckers String Band. Throughout the lounge, art work by Santa Cruz area teenage women hung on display.

Informational booths lined one area. Women's organizations had tables of information and members were available to answer questions, sell bumperstickers, pins, and spread the word about their groups.

Saturday evening held a poetry and music festival. Poets such as Maude Meehan and Ellen Bass gave readings of their women-oriented

works.

Even the childcare center was the site of more than a few festivities. There were clowns ready to paint smiles on any child, music, films, lots of balloons, and stories. There was always at least one child sleeping in a quiet corner, overwhelmed by all the activity.

The whole weekend passed by in a bright, busy blur. Trying to be in several places simultaneously — so much happening all at once — was impossible, but it was fun trying. We came home, warm and toasty from the sun and sisterhood, anticipating the next celebration of women.

It should happen every day!

—Jane Vondrak & Sandra McKee

Work, Love and Support Make Holly Near Concert a Success

Bringing women's music to the Monterey area has been an amazing process. Starting with little-known groups, Demeter Productions continued expanding rapidly until we found ourselves in the midst of a Holly Near concert, in our own

addition of Adrienne Torf on piano, formed the band which provided the fine back-up for Holly's performance.

Describing Holly Near's music is always difficult. Suffice to say she brought her warmth, profes-

*Photos by
Iris Dean*

And Irene Gaasch



Laurie Lewis and Holly Near go over before-concert details.

Pacific Grove Middle School Auditorium.

The reality of seeing our community support this concert (some 650 strong!) was truly thrilling, and made this event a complete success.

Robin Flower, Laurie Lewis and Nancy Vogl opened the show, bringing rounds of applause with their lively music. They, with the

sionalism, social consciousness and wit to share so lovingly with all of us. Her songs and music filled us and remain, as she continues on tour.

March 2 will indeed go down in local herstory as a landmark date. As a production team, we've all grown so much from working with and experiencing the production of an event the magnitude of the Holly Near & Friends concert. As a community, we've shown we can support big name acts; linking us to an entire network of women's music and laying important groundwork for future events.

—Barbara Bastian



Laurie Lewis and Robin Flower



Nancy Vogl

*The good earth dusty, lets a rock or two
Sift through a villian's hold
The force of crab grass gnarling and seeking
Worse, going where it's never been wanted
Flaunting through bulbs as well
Crawling damped close to adobe walls
Following crannies*

Insisting

I count

I count

I

A young miss, far from her Zurich home

Bold as a condor needing new hills

Tugs at the evening harshly

saying, "My father gardened

for too many children.

I'm harder. I'm not going to wed."

But she beds in a soft twenty foot camper.

Her well off Pete plans his day.

She plans what's to eat

says, "I'm lonely,

Don't make me wait!"

He does his world's work,

Important.

While the potatoes burn

Each reproach eaten later

stiffens his will to

not let her spoil

what he's set out to do.

She bends

a little more

to a more secret cranny

Over wall too high

Inside she cries

I count

I count

I

I

Marjorie Van Peski

Softball Next?

Demeter Basketball Team Ends Season Undefeated

The Demeter sponsored basketball team in the Monterey Parks and Recreation Department's women's basketball league has ended its season undefeated with a 6-0 record.

Made up of staff members and readers, the team started out the season learning how to dribble and ended up hooting in victory and carrying Coach Jenny Bowhay across the basketball court.

Hannah Rothlin, women's athletic director at Parks and Rec, is enthusiastic about the response to this season's basketball turnout and is seeking input from the women's community as to which sports women would like them to sponsor throughout the year.

Soccer, softball, and touch football are being discussed, with softball teams now forming. Demeter is sponsoring a softball team in the B League. If you are interested in joining, call Maureen and Jill at 625-2830.

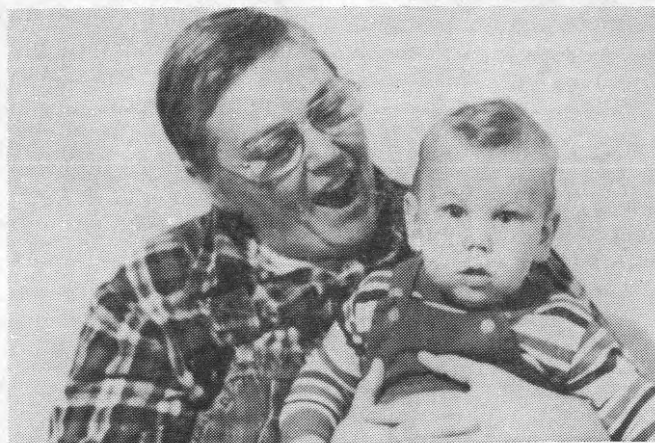


Photo by Iris Dean

LOYAL BASKETBALL FANS Termota and Brian Hansen cheer on the Demeter team from the sidelines.

The Wonder Drug People Should Wonder About

DES (Diethylstilbestrol) is a synthetic estrogen that was administered to several million pregnant women between 1941-1971 if they had a history of previous miscarriage, slight bleeding or diabetes. The effects of this drug can be devastating.

A large proportion of daughters born to women who took DES have been found to have changes in their vagina called adenosis, the presence of a type of glandular tissue in the vagina that usually occurs in the cervix. A small number of DES daughters, probably less than one in one thousand, has cancer of the vagina or cervix called Clear Cell Adenocarcinoma.

DES sons may show non-cancerous changes such as cysts, undescended testicals and lowered sperm counts.

Recent studies suggest a possible

increase in breast cancer and cancer of the uterus, cervix or ovaries in DES mothers.

It is important to find out whether you were exposed to this drug. Ask your mother if she had any of the following problems during pregnancy: bleeding, miscarriages, diabetes, or premature births. It is best if you can obtain her medical records, although it is hard to determine which drug contained DES since it was sold under 200 different brand names.

If there is any reason to believe your mother may have taken DES, go to a doctor or a clinic with experience in DES screening. Screening consists of a careful inspection and gentle palpitation of the vagina and cervix, a four-sided (quadrant) Pap test and iodine staining of the vagina and cervix. Normal tissue stains brown whereas

adenosis tissue does not stain. This special screening is usually quick, inexpensive and involves little discomfort.

Although studies continue to show that DES is a dangerous drug with harmful effects, it is still manufactured and widely used as the Morning After Pill.

There is a senate bill, SB 1392, that, if passed, would provide funds for the State Health Department to do wide spread education on DES and to set up more special screening clinics. By writing your senators you can help support this legislation.

For more information on DES and on local screening clinics, contact DES Action, 4079-A 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 or the American Cancer Society, 439 Webster, Monterey, 372-4521.

—JT Mason

Women Take to the Basketball Courts

When they're not running, they're jumping. When they're not jumping, they're diving. When they're not diving, they're shooting. When they're not shooting, they're passing. These women can *really* move.

More women are playing more sports on more levels now than ever before in our nation's history. Professional leagues are blossoming, college teams are sprouting up in dozens of different sports, and high schools and grade schools are developing more sports programs for women every year.

Basketball is among the fastest growing of all. It is the most widely played team sport in the country today, for women and men alike.

Wonder why? Players and fans can tell you. To them, basketball is the fastest, most exciting and most challenging of sports. It combines the personal challenges of an individual sport with the shared rewards of team play. It combines physical talent with mental sharpness, demanding that each player understand the rapidly changing patterns of offense and defense. Its players must be fast moving and quick thinking, and each must possess not just one specialized talent but a whole range of athletic skills.

Although women have played basketball since the turn of the century, they have traditionally played a slower, weaker version of the game than men. Until about 10 years ago, women's basketball was held back by restrictive rules, limiting the number of dribbles, using six players to a team, and allowing only two players to play full-court.

Now all that has changed. Women play by the same rules as men. In the past, women relied primarily on grace and finesse; now they have added strength and aggressiveness to their game.

Women's college basketball has arrived. The competition is intense and quality players are numerous. The brisk growth of the sport can be traced in part to Title IX, the provision of the Educational Act of 1972 which obligates colleges and universities to offer equal athletic opportunity to members of both sexes. That does not necessarily



Photos by Iris Dean

DEMETER BASKETBALL TEAM—From left to right, top row, are: Chris Fisher, LaNita Adams, Coach Jenny Bowhay, Mickey Welsh, Debi Busman, Liz Atkinson and Jody Balzer. Kneeling are Barbara Bastian, Kathy Stoner and Carol Silverstone. Not pictured are Jackie "The Speedster" Somma, "Jumpin'" JT Mason, and Joan "Hot Dog" Weiner. The team emerged undefeated with a 6-0 record in the Monterey Parks and Rec. B League Basketball League.

mean equal money, however, and women's teams still operate on a fraction of what men receive.

Colleges play a sophisticated brand of basketball. Women rely on a variety of passes, screens and patterns to get off shots. Their game is more interesting than the men's game where power and physical contact predominate. The Associated Press now sends newspapers a weekly ranking of the top 20 women's teams. Basketball offers women a free college education, a spot on the U.S. Olympic team and a chance to turn pro.

The Women's Professional Basketball League (WBL) is in its second season of operation. The league has grown from eight teams in its first season to 12 teams playing in two divisions. Players are drafted after graduating from college. After this summer's Olympics, many foreign players are expected to join the league.

The WBL gives women an opportunity to earn a living playing

their sport. Young women now have female role models and know that being a professional athlete is a career choice.

—Joan Weiner



FORWARD Barbara Bastian heads down court with a pass in a crowd of Cookie Place players.

Massage, Nutrition

Healing Ourselves — Bodywork For Women Workshop April 19-20

A two-day intensive for women on massage, nutrition and herbs will be offered by Amadea Morningstar and Claire Parrish the weekend of April 19 and 20 in Carmel Valley. The workshop will integrate techniques of bodywork including Esalen, Swedish, acupressure, and therapeutic touch. Special focus will be placed on areas often needing energy release in women: lower back, shoulders, head, jaw, pelvis, and feet.

"We will be learning to use our hands more effectively as a channel of love and healing," said the two facilitators. "We will also be teaching simple techniques for taking care of yourself when you are tired or stressed. Nutrition and herbal information to harmonize our bodies will comprise an integral part of the weekend." The workshop is open to all women, regardless of experience.

Claire is a Body Awareness Educator with training in various techniques of massage and bodywork. She is a certified massage instructor and has facilitated many workshops. She is also the instructor for the Massage Practitioners State Certification at Pathway Institute in Monterey.

Amadea is an accredited nutritionist with longtime interest and experience in holistic techniques. While relatively new to this area, she has taught about



WORKSHOP Facilitators Amadea Morningstar and Claire Parrish.

holistic healing in the Southwest since 1974, including numerous workshops for women. Her previous experience includes a full-time massage practice in Austin, Texas and co-directorship of the Women's Health Services of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The registration fee is \$40 per person prior to April 10; after that date the fee will be \$50. A special rate of \$75 for two is offered to women who share both household and finances, payable by April 10. For more information and to make reservations, please call 375-6484 or 625-0757.

Mandala Book Signing Party For Author Diana Paul

On April 27 author and professor Diana Yoshikawa Paul will hold a book signing party at The Mandala to celebrate the release of her new book, *The Buddhist Feminine Ideal: Queen Srimala and the Tathagatagrabha*.

Western society is increasingly influenced by Buddhist religious thought. As we re-examine our own sex-roles, the study of the feminine in Mahayana Buddhist ideas takes on a new importance. Throughout Buddhist tradition women have been treated with ambivalence as either a threat to man's enlightenment or characterized as guides of great insight and power.

Currently a professor at Stanford University with a Ph.D. in Buddhist studies, Diana Paul continues to do research in Chinese and Indian religion. Her first book, *Women in Buddhism: Images of the Feminine in Mahayana Tradition*, translated for the first time many fascinating legends that depict woman as wife, mother, temptress, good daughter and Bodhisattva. The tales are supplemented with analytical commentary as Ms. Paul discusses the relationship between sexuality and religion with comparisons between the negative and positive images of women in Buddhism.

The Mandala is located at 176 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove. For more information call 375-2577.

—Cyndi Sumner

MPC Child Care Center Crafts Fair

On Saturday, April 5, there will be a crafts fair to support the Child Care Center of Monterey Peninsula College. The fair will be held at Custom House Plaza, next to Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey.

The fair will start at 10 a.m. and will feature the appearance of an Easter Bunny, an 'ala carte' Easter basket booth, a children's art booth, and much, much more.

The proceeds will go directly to renovating the two small playgrounds at the center, which handles up to 60 children a day. As

of now, these playgrounds have no flowers or grass and one playground is on such a slope it makes it hard for young ones to maintain any balance.

Attempts have been made by parents and staff to improve the grounds, but this has proven futile because of the poor landscaping and lack of maintenance.

Booths are still available for anyone wishing to sell their handmade items. They are \$15 for on campus organizations and \$20 for off campus groups. There will be a free in-

formation booth for any non-profit organization to share. Dorothy Engel is in charge of selling booths and may be reached at 375-5086. Deadline for purchasing a booth is March 28.

Entertainers are also needed — everything from an acrobat to a zither player. So here's a chance for all you amateurs and non-amateurs to display your talents and support a good cause. For more information call Jane Vondrak at 646-8642, or Pat at the Day Care Center, 649-1150 ext. 366 for more information.

Classified Ads

Classified ads cost \$1 for 3 lines. Send copy along with payment to Demeter, 591 Lighthouse, No. 7, Pacific Grove, CA 93940. Ads must reach us by April 18 for inclusion in the May issue.

HELP! We need a 1-bedroom apartment or house in PG or Mtry. for under \$300 a month. Can move anytime in June. Call Maureen or Jill at 625-2830.

TYPESETTING — Fast, accurate, reasonable. Call the Exchange, 845 Wave, Monterey, 372-7055.

NON-SEXIST and Feminist Counseling. Individual appointments. Diana Case, M.A. 375-6142.

LOOK OUT for the Talent Show. April 12, 8 p.m., Robert Down School Auditorium, 485 Pine Ave., PG.

PRINTING, quality work, fast service, reasonable prices. Lighthouse Printing, 225 Lighthouse Ave., New Monterey, 373-3820.

WITH my tools and experience, I'll teach you to tune-up your car. Call Cuca Hepburn, 649-6065.

LICENSED, employed teacher will tutor all subjects. 624-5354, eves.

PACIFIC Grove Child Care Center, ages 3-5. Open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reasonable fees. Excellent environment. 373-4020.

INFORMATION wanted on Gene Frances-Gene McComas. Active 1912-1968, primarily oil, conte, pastel, murals. Call 375-0800 or write 511 Grand, PG. Carolyn Berry or Nancy Koller. Thanks.

DO RE MI Music in The Barnyard has a wide variety of women's music. Tickets are available for the Holly Near Concert March 2.

FEMINIST counseling, individual and group sessions. Barbara Licht-Greenberg M.A., M.F.C.C. candidate. 375-8111.

GRAPHIC ARTS

Silkscreening process, camera work, signs and shirts. Gwen Scott, Barbara Williams, 649-1277, 649-6065. Pacific Grove.

I HAVE recently opened my office at 1088 Cass Street specializing in business and personal financial services and income tax preparation. For assistance, please call Edie Broeckelman, 649-4284.

STAYING CLEAR: Claudia Treadwell, body-stress consultant. Therapeutic deep massage and body reading, combined with psychoanalytic process work. Individual Body Tension Map. Nine years experience, former UC-Esalen instructor. Home visits available. 649-1001 messages.

*A Special Thank You To
Dian Kiser, Margaret Fuller
and Gwen Marie Scott
For Generous Contributions*

All Things Considered

By Janie Forrest

In spite of how terrifying the crime of rape is, I can't help feeling just a tiny bit grateful that our recourse options for handling such incidents have come such a long way out of the dark ages they have been in for generations. Until very recently rape victims were routinely treated as criminals or seduction partners, and there were no networks of supportive women's centers to turn to in times of crisis.

But the limited progress that can be noted seems to be restricted to Western cultures only. And this makes me gravely concerned about our sisters in Third World nations. For instance, I read recently that rape is seriously unreported in Egypt and other Arab countries due to great pressures on women not to report the crime.

When an Egyptian woman reports a rape, she has to go through a medical examination that is inhuman, and Egyptian men are typically unsympathetic, wondering if the woman is covering up adultery. In addition, the high value of chastity in that society makes women refrain from reporting it. The fact that the woman has been subjected to any kind of assault is a stigma for the family and its honor. If the victim is a virgin it is even more of a stigma to be subjected to assault, lowering her chances for marriage. Furthermore, it is often wise for the woman to keep silent to protect her own life. For it seems

that in rural Egyptian villages, it is not uncommon for relatives of a rape victim to murder her in order to protect family honor.

There is no doubt that domestic brutality also enjoys the benefit of the law in Egypt. Here a man can compel his wife to go to bed with him and it is not rape. If he has to beat her to take her to bed, that too is considered justified.

The question is the extent that women of one country can help women of other cultures. Naturally, I am not naive enough to suggest that we can expect Arab women to be able to overcome this outrage overnight; we ourselves are far from being beyond the "guilty victim" mentality. But perhaps the massive public education efforts put forth by American women during the past decade might also be used overseas. If an educational campaign was started to distribute information about this violent crime to Third World governments, it might begin to persuade a few people to take a second look at the nature of the crime.

Because the status of women in Arab societies is gradually improving in other aspects of life, it might be a perfect opportunity to enlighten Arab leaders in this area as well. All things considered, it seems that the time has come for all countries to re-acquaint themselves with the problem of rape and begin to punish the perpetrators instead of the victims.



*Support Demeter
Subscribe!*

Name _____

Address _____

☐ Six months ☐ One year

Subscriptions to *Demeter* are \$3.00 for six months or \$6.00 for one year. Mail check or money order to *Demeter*, P.O. Box 1661, Monterey, CA 93940.

A Continuing Series

Feminism — A Personal Perspective

Arriving at a feminist perspective is a profoundly personal experience. The process forces one to re-examine many unquestioned customs and relationships. Feminism helps women realize they have a right to make many more choices than society commonly permits. Through Demeter we hope in some way to reach every woman. Each month a woman will be writing a chronicle of the process she went through in becoming a feminist. We encourage others to send in their own accounts of their emergence as feminists.

The child is eight years old. We celebrated her birthday on the first day of Spring. She is going further into the world, her home seeming smaller as she grows.

I remember being that age. I read voraciously — as does she — never noticing how placid Mary and Sally were (and still are), while Spot and Dick constantly were off on big adventures. I don't think the child notices, or feels indignant, even though I point out the injustice. She's too busy romping in the fields of clover in her mind.

I read aloud to her and delight in a few of her books where little girls build imaginary worlds from wooden crates and boys aren't afraid to take ballet lessons. Even while I see social change arriving by way of removing sex roles from behavior, it is monotonous to read when you can guess that Polly will *always* stay home with Dolly and Mike can be counted on to be out riding his bike.

When the child goes to school, I wonder if she is taught anything concerning the contributions women have made and will continue to make to humanity. I know she knows who George Washington was, but is the child taught who Alice Paul was and what she has done for women? And when will International Women's Day become a national holiday?

I go to PTA meetings at the child's school and I can't help but notice that most of the teachers are female and the supreme authority — the principal — is male. It seems to be a microcosmic reflection of the "real" world.

She and I talk sometimes of feminism. She sees women in all sorts of jobs that society would have her believe didn't exist. But, the

media has such a glossy, hard-sell tactic limiting behavior and she is drawn before the colors and extravagance, not realizing the harm that advertisers do in dehumanizing women. She forgets the reality in the shade of bright colors.

I feel sick when I see her, with her child's innocent sensuality, see something presented in the form of erotica — a photograph, an album cover, maybe, that shows woman as a lover of pain, a masochist. I worry, too, that she will believe even one bit of that propaganda, ending up a victimized person. I worry also about the little boys who get that same message, "innocently" chasing down kisses on the school playground.

Then again, there is not only sorrow and worry. There is the rush of pride and joy I feel when this daughter, scarcely four feet tall, sings enthusiastically, "I was born a great, big woman and you can't just take my dreams away." I am touched, too, when she gathers with her friends, running fast and strong

and unafraid, building new worlds in the face of the old. Evenings roll in, the child bringing tales of the day, its victories and achievements.

I sometimes wish I could peer into a crystal ball, wanting to view this child as what she will be. Did she achieve her highest potential? Was freedom of choice really her right to be exercised? I come back to reality as I realize these questions aren't answered in my own life and I see my daughter as my sister.

—Sandra McKee



— Women Speak Out —



If you deny any affinity with another person or kind of person, if you declare it to be wholly different from yourself — as men have done to women, and class has done to class, and nation has done to nation — you may hate it, or deify it; but in either case you have denied it its spiritual equality, and its human reality. You have made it into a thing, to which the only possible relationship is a power relationship. And thus you have fatally impoverished your own reality. You have, in fact, alienated yourself.

—Ursula LeGuin